

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for clarity.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 7 and 10-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1-3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawai (JP 10-280990). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kawai does not teach or describe a "first motor-generator connected with the vehicle drive shaft is operated as a generator that charges an electrical accumulator," as recited in claim 1. In particular, Kawai describes the use of an AC dynamo that generates electrical energy by using a part of engine power, to compensate reduction of electrical and electric equipment currently stored in a DC-battery. Thus, Kawai merely describes the generation of electrical energy; however, does not teach or describe "a generator that charges an electrical accumulator."

As a result, claim 1 is patentable over Kawai.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, and 8 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

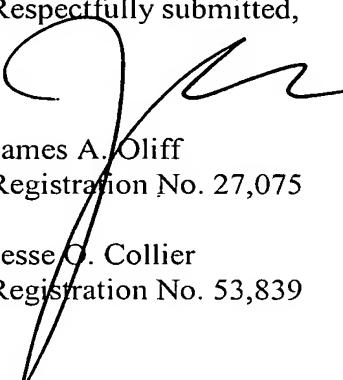
The Office Action rejects claims 4, 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,569,055 to Urasawa et al. (hereinafter "Urasawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the presumption that Kawai discloses all of the features of claim 1. Because, as discussed above, Kawai does not disclose all the features of claim 1, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/tjx

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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